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The Florists.

THE Florists of the United States have every reason to be satisfied with the meeting of their Association which was held in this city last week. The attendance was larger than at any previous meeting of the Association; and the attention which it received from the press and from the public of this city is certainly gratifying in its indication of the growing interest of the community in all that relates to the cultivation of plants and flowers. The papers read, and the discussions to which they gave rise, were far above the average of such productions. They show that the Florists of the United States are an active and intelligent body of men fully alive to the necessities of their business, and fully determined that if its growth of the last ten years is not surpassed in the future, it shall be by no fault of theirs. Some of the treatises were filled with practical information relating to the gardener's art, and as such, they cannot fail to be real additions to the knowledge of horticulture as practiced by men who make the gentle art furnish them with daily bread, and which fierce competition compels them to practice with strict economy in the true meaning of the word. Such papers the public had a right to expect, but at similar meetings they have rarely listened to papers of a tone as elevated and grasp as broad as that of the President, Mr. Hill, of Mr. Halliday, and of Mr. Battles, of Philadelphia, whose sensible remarks relating to the artistic aspects of the florists' business, and the necessity for greater simplicity of floral arrangements than now prevails, should be carefully read by every man in the United States whose business it is to supply the public with flowers. Mr. Hill pointed out the injustice which many raisers of new varieties of plants suffer at the hands of rivals who obtain a new variety and then, perhaps, send it out again under a new name of their own coining;—an imposition from which the public, especially that part of it which buys "new plants," suffers as well as the florists.

The earnestness of the Association in its efforts to secure a better nomenclature of florists' flowers than now exists is shown by its action in imposing upon its members an assessment for the purpose of creating a fund to detect and expose florists who willfully sell varieties under false names. Mr. Halliday's paper upon nomenclature points out the confusion which exists in the names of florists' flowers—a confusion by no means confined to them alone, but pervading the names of all cultivated plants. The committee appointed by the Association to revise the names of plants will doubtless inaugurate a much needed reform in this matter, at least in the case of those plants most important from a commercial point of view, and determine names which the Association, with its powerful organization and influence, will be able to impose upon the trade without very serious difficulty.

The question of obtaining from Congress the enactment of a law permitting trade-marks or copyrights to be taken out for the protection of the rights of raisers of new flowers was not brought before the Convention. The question of copyrighting new flowers is not altogether a new one, and has been discussed in different European countries at various times, as well as in the United States. The right of a man to enjoy the results of his labors is as true when the product is a new flower as when it is a new book or a work of art. The intelligence, thought and study expended in growing a new race of garden-plants or new varieties of such a race is as great as is required to produce a book; but as long as the raiser of new plants must lose all benefits of these creations of his brain as soon as he sells the first individual, and so puts it in the power of his competitors to reap the benefits which should belong to him, the principal incentive to the production of new plants does not exist. This is a subject of such vital importance to the future of horticulture, here and everywhere, that we venture to suggest to the Executive Committee of the Association that it deserves careful consideration at their hands.

The horticultural exhibition held in connection with the meeting was disappointing, and cannot be taken as an example either of the actual condition of horticulture in this vicinity or as a fair representative of the florists' business of the United States. The display of florists' materials—the tools of the trade, so to speak—was large and varied, but these are objects in which the trade and not the horticultural public are interested Of the products of the garden there was nothing certainly to indicate that this exhibition was held in one of the largest and most important commercial centres of the world, where the trade in flowers has reached a development unknown elsewhere in modern times. Of plants there were practically none, with the exception of a well-grown and well-selected collection of Caladiums from Mr. G. W. Childs' garden near Philadelphia. Gladioli were exhibited in considerable numbers and variety, but they were the Gladioli of twenty or twenty-five years ago, and showed no trace of the brilliant blood of the new races which our hybridizers, following the lead of the French, are now creating by crossing various species of these fine flowers. The large and interesting collection of Orchid flowers sent from Mr. Kimball's garden lost much of its attractiveness and value, for the public, at least, from the fact that they were arranged without taste, and that the different varieties were unnamed. Among the small collection of fruit staged, splendid examples of Barbarosa and Muscat of Alexandria Grapes, from the garden of Mr. M. A. Osborn, of Mamaroneck, must be mentioned. Specimens of Nelumbium, from the pond near Bordentown, in New Jersey, where this plant is now fully naturalized, served to recall Mr. Sturtevant's service to American horticulture, in making the possibilities of Water-Lily cultivation known and the beauty of these flowers appreciated in this country. Lilies-of-the-Valley and Lilacs are not attractive objects in August, and, while it may show ingenuity to flower such plants in the summer, the practice is not one to be commended.

The number of made designs was smaller than might have been expected at an exhibition arranged under such auspices, and, on the whole, they were less objectionable

than such designs usually are. One or two of them showed taste and knowledge.

But the exhibition, after all, was not the essential part of the convention, and the fact that it was not a representative of horticultural progress in the United States, takes away but little from the general success of the convention, which showed that the florists of the United States are not behind any other class of business men in this country in enterprise and in intelligence, and that they realize the responsibility of their position toward the public as educators in many matters of decoration and taste.

The manufacture of cypress shingles has become, of late years, an important industry in the south and south-western States. According to statistics collected by the Southern Shingle Association, the product of the present year exceeds that of 1887 by about forty per cent., reaching a total of 520,000,000. These figures include, probably, a part of the shingles manufactured by hand, as well as most of those produced in the mills, but not all. The domestic manufacture, on a small scale, of cypress shingles, has long been a favorite occupation of the negroes and poor white people living in the neighborhood of the Cypress swamps, and the total number made in this way is large, although it is practically impossible to collect anything like complete statistics of the product of industries carried on in homes. It would be safe, probably, to add, however, several millions to the figures published by the Southern Shingle Association. No statistics, unfortunately, of the amount of cypress lumber manufactured, are now available, but that it has greatly increased of late years there can be no doubt. Each year makes the value of this remarkable wood better known and more generally appreciated, and as white pine of the highest grades becomes more difficult to obtain, cypress must replace it at the north in many employments where a light, resinous, straight-grained and very durable wood is demanded. The supply of cypress is by no means inexhaustible. The swamps of the south and south-west still contain very considerable bodies of this tree (*Taxodium distichum*), although those in the most available positions and of the most convenient size for the mills, have already been cut along the principal streams and from the neighborhood of centres of population. It is true, too, that while the Cypress only grows in deep swamps, incapable of drainage, and therefore destined to be covered always with trees, that it is not reproducing itself very extensively anywhere, and that the Liquidambar and the Cotton-Gum are gradually replacing it. The value of the Cypress, too, as a timber tree, is seriously affected by a dry-rot, a species of *Dædalia*, which is especially destructive in the great bodies of this timber, which occupy the river-swamps of western Louisiana and the adjacent parts of Texas. It is evident, therefore, that the Cypress forests are not destined to take a prominent and lasting position in the timber supply of the Continent, and that they cannot be depended upon to furnish indefinitely, or even for any considerable time, their present output. The best substitute for southern cypress to be found in any considerable quantity in the American forests, is the wood of the so-called Red Cedar of the North-West Coast (*Thuya gigantea*). It is an enormous tree, widely distributed, generally near the coast, from northern California to Alaska, where, fortunately, it reproduces itself freely, and grows, while young, with astonishing rapidity in the moist climate of the region to which it is confined.

The trees in Boston, especially the Lindens upon the Common, were greatly disfigured during several years by the hairy caterpillar of the Tussock Moth (*Orgyia leucostigma*). It has done less injury during the past two or three years, although the leaves of some Horse-Chestnut trees in the Public Garden have been destroyed by it this season, but now the trunks of many of the trees on Commonwealth Avenue and in the Public Gardens and Common are literally covered with the white hairy cocoons of this insect. Late in the present month or early in September the mature insects will emerge and the females will deposit their eggs upon the cocoons. Next season the caterpillar will hatch, and from present appearances, unless active measures are taken now to destroy them, there will be enough to devour every leaf upon every tree in the city. Now is the time to prevent this by destroying the cocoons, which can be done easily and quickly with a brush made of stiff wires or with a sharp-pointed stick. An industrious man or boy can destroy the cocoons upon the trunks of a large number of trees in a day, and the sooner industrious men and boys are set about it, the better.

House at Honmoku in Japan.

THE photograph from which our illustration (see page 319) was drawn seemed to us of especial interest as displaying a Japanese solution of a problem very similar to that which often confronts a builder on the rocky shores of New England, especially north of Cape Cod, and on the borders of many of our inland lakes. This problem is to place a country-house on a rugged shore to the best advantage, while preserving, as far as possible, the natural character of the spot. It is only of very recent years that it has been so much as considered in this country. We have been much too anxious to imitate, under wholly different conditions, the country homes of Europe, and, in particular, of England. We have wanted to surround our houses with green lawns, well-kept flower-beds and trees symmetrical in shape and planted in accordance with the supposed laws of landscape gardening as practiced in countries all parts of which have long been subjected to cultivation. And we have too often tried to secure all this in actual defiance of natural conditions, and at the sacrifice of natural beauties which, to a really cultivated eye, would have seemed of priceless value. We have too often sacrificed the chance for a beautiful, wide outlook over the water by placing the house so far from the brink that lawns and drives could encircle it; have cut away the native growth of tree and shrubs—rough and straggling, perhaps, but picturesque and precious for that very reason—and replaced them by nursery specimens; have planted gardeners' flowers in the stead of nature's beautiful wild products, and in the end, after a vast expenditure of time, pains and money, have succeeded in producing merely a bad imitation of an English villa, unattractive in itself, and utterly out of keeping with the landscape environing it.

Fortunately, tastes are changing, and one of the chief facts to be placed to the credit of the architectural profession in America to-day is the fact that it has developed a keen sense for the diverse natural beauties of our country, and an admirable power of adapting its constructions to the site and the surroundings at the moment in question. It is getting to be recognized as a binding æsthetic rule that a house shall conform itself to site and surroundings, and that these shall not be defaced to suit the character of a design abstractly evolved on paper, or tortured into the semblance of something which foreign hands had created under very different conditions. Many American homes exist, built within the last ten years, which are as worthy of praise from the point of view of appropriateness and picturesque charm as the Japanese house in our present picture. Some of them we hope to illustrate at a later day; but the Japanese house is meanwhile shown as evidence that the most thoroughly artistic nation of the modern world endorses the idea we are trying to explain. It will be noted that this house is placed quite at the edge of the cliff, so that the most extended possible view is obtained; that every tree which could be preserved in building it has been preserved; that the wild aspect of the spot has not been interfered with, and that the constructions of man, alike in the house itself, and in the fences, steps and

other surroundings, have been kept as simple and unobtrusive as possible. Picturesqueness is not the only quality to be prized, either in architectural or in gardening art; and it is a quality which, if forced into life where it does not naturally belong, is distressing to every cultivated eye. But when nature gives us picturesqueness in so clear and pronounced a form as here, the architect must accept her leading or ruin the effect both of her work and of his own. And spots quite as distinctively picturesque as this, and very similar in character, abound, as we have said, in many parts of our pine-grown, rocky coasts, and demand analogous architectural treatment. Naturally, to advise direct imitation of a Japanese house in America is no part of our desire, yet it may be said that the general architectural idea embodied in this house is far better fitted to adaptation in this country than most of those European models upon which we have so largely drawn in the past.

Foreign Correspondence.

London Letter.

THE finest Orchid which secured a certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society at its meeting on July 24th was *Cattleya Amesiana*, from Baron Schroeder's matchless collection, and probably the largest specimen in existence of this rare plant, it having been one of the gems in Mrs. Morgan's collection dispersed at New York some time since. It is a hybrid, raised five years ago by Messrs. Veitch, of Chelsea, between *Cattleya crispa* and *C. maxima*, and in growth it resembles most nearly the first named parent, the bulbs being stout and tall. The flowers are so strikingly like those of the superb *C. Exoniensis* that the difference between the two hybrids is not readily detected. The sepals and petals are broader than those of *C. crispa*, are less reflexed, and, instead of white, are of a delicate mauve tint. The labellum is broad and shallow, and exquisitely frilled at the margin. In color it is of the richest purple-crimson on the lower part, while the upper half is pure white, which serves to emphasize the intensity of the crimson. The specimen shown bore half a dozen spikes with three and four flowers on each, and therefore well deserved a cultural commendation.

Another exquisite little Orchid certificated was *Saccolabium cœleste*, from Mr. B. S. Williams. Comparing it with the well-known *S. curvifolium*, it has the same thick, channeled leaves, strongly recurved and arranged in two ranks. The cylindrical flower spikes are about four inches long, quite erect, and consist of a crowd of small flowers with sky-blue sepals and petals and a lip of rich purple-blue. It reminds one of *Vanda cærulescens* in flower-color, and is quite unique in this respect in the genus *Saccolabium*. It is supposed to come from Moulmein and was first known under the name of *Rhynchostylis cœlestis*.

Anguloa Ruckeri alba, though certificated, did not get a unanimous vote, as some of the committee thought it no better than *A. uniflora* and *A. virginalis*, both white flowered species. The Albino does not differ from the original *A. Ruckeri*, except in absence of color, the flowers being quite as large and of pure ivory whiteness, very beautiful, as if carved out of alabaster. The powerful spicy odor of this Anguloa is objectionable to some persons, while others like it. *A. Ruckeri*, var. *retusa*, was also shown by Mr. Dorman, but it does not differ much from the typical form and is not nearly so fine a variety as *A. Ruckeri sanguinea*, with blood-red flowers. Messrs. Sander, of St. Albans, showed two new Orchids, both beautiful, but scarcely in condition to show their merits. One was *Bollea Wendlandiana*, quite a new species and distinct from others in color of the flowers. In growth, foliage, size and shape of flower it resembles the old *B. cœlestis*, but the color is a soft lemon yellow of various shades, with not a trace of the plum-purple tint which characterizes most of the Bolleas. The other Orchid was *Lælia Eyermanniana*, supposed to be a natural hybrid between *L. majalis* and *L. autumnalis*. In bulb and leaf it resembles the former, but the flower is most like that of *L. autumnalis* in size, shape and color, which is a soft mauve-pink. A very marked feature of this novelty is the bracts, which, instead of being membranaceous, are leafy and green, and I know no other *Lælia* that has this peculiarity.

Among new green-house plants the most important was a variety of Javanese Rhododendron, with snow white blossoms as large and as fine in truss as any of the numerous hybrids which Messrs. Veitch have raised and exhibited of late years. There has been no lack of varieties with flowers of all shades of crimson, yellow and pink, but a white-flowered variety has long been sought for. Now we have it, and its value cannot possibly be overestimated, as a race of white-flowered green-house Rhododendrons, which will, in time, prove a great boon to those who have to supply a demand for white flowers, especially in winter, when these Rhododendrons naturally flower most abundantly, may now confidently be expected. This novelty is appropriately named Purity.

Two new Roses won certificates, a noteworthy fact, inasmuch as the committee are always cautious in certificating new Roses. One of these was shown by Messrs. W. Paul & Son, of Waltham Cross. It is named Duchess of Albany, and is a sport from La France, differing in no way from that favorite variety except in color, which, in the Duchess, is several shades deeper, while its petals preserve the characteristic curl which shows the paler pink inner surface and adds so much to the flower's beauty. The committee has now had flowers of it before them at consecutive meetings and they feel confident that it is a good Rose. The other new Rose was from the other Paul's of Cheshunt, and is named Paul's Cheshunt Scarlet. It was not put forward as an exhibition Rose, but merely as a garden Rose, and is chiefly remarkable for its intensity of color, the perfect shape of the flowers in advanced bud stage, the compact dwarf growth of the bush, and its floriferousness. The flowers shown certainly bore out all the points the raiser claims for this Rose, and I am acquainted with no other whose color so nearly approaches to a true brilliant scarlet. It is no doubt a seedling from one of the vivid scarlet Roses that have had their origin in the Cheshunt nurseries.

One of the most important exhibits of the meeting in the opinion of many was the new Japanese *Stuartia Pseudocamellia*, shown for the first time in bloom by Messrs. Veitch, from their nursery at Coombe Wood, where it has proved itself hardy as the North American representatives of the genus, *S. Virginica* and *S. pentagyna*. The Japanese is a good deal like the latter in flower, but most reminds one of the North American *Gordonia pubescens*. The leaves are lanceolate, acuminate, slightly toothed about four inches long. The flowers are produced from the leaf axils and are three inches across the outspread petals, but as these do not open widely the flowers look smaller than they are. The petals are broadly ovate, ivory-white and silky on the exterior faces and therefore shine like satin. The tufts of pale yellow stamens harmonizes beautifully with the warm white blossoms. The shrub is a very free flowerer, for the twigs shown, which were only a few inches in length, bore numerous flowers. The species is aptly named as the flowers remind one of a single Camellia, and the foliage is not unlike that of the Tea plant (*C. theifera*).

Three new Ferns received certificates, two being crested forms of British species. One was named *Lastrea montana ramo-coronatus* having the pinnæ ending in a dense crest, and the end of each frond also broadly crested. The other was a crested Hart's Tongue, *Scolopendrium vulgare cristalatum*, and so dense is its crest that it looks like a tuft of the finest garnishing Parsley. Both are good varieties of hardy Ferns, but whether they are real acquisitions, considering the thousand and one crested forms we already have in cultivation, I cannot say. The

third certificated Fern was the pretty *Nothoclæna Muelleri*, which has slender fronds a foot in length, with rounded, olive green pinnæ, covered with brownish scales.

London, July 24th. *W. Goldring.*

Mr. Kimball's Orchids.

THROUGH the kindness of W. S. Kimball, Esq., hosts of visitors have been able to see a remarkable display of Orchid-flowers in his great collection, as many as 500 names having been registered on the visitors' book in a single day. At the time of our visit we found in the Cattleya-house an abundance of flowers, and suspended from the roof was a fine example of the beautiful *Catasetum Bungeoothii*, bearing on a stout spike, eight well-developed blossoms of ivory whiteness. It is really a lovely Orchid, and one of the finest introductions of late years. The sepals and petals measure five inches across, and the lip, which is broad and of wax-like substance, is beautifully undulated; the column is peculiarly constructed, standing out boldly, and breaking the flatness which the lip would otherwise present. In the same structure is the new and extremely rare *Spathoglottis Kimballiana* in its full beauty, the brilliant blossoms reminding one of a golden-yellow Phalænopsis. The plant had two fine spikes, on which were thirty flowers, many of them fully open, and presenting a very showy appearance. Another Orchid, rarely met with in such perfection, was a well-grown *Oncidium Lanceanum*, with five large spikes, bearing, in the aggregate, 100 rich-colored flowers, and emitting a delightful perfume. A superior variety of this Orchid named *O. Lanceanum* (*Laurencianum*) was flowering. It differs from the ordinary form in the lip, which is of a deep violet with a pure white lobe, which makes it most effective. *Oncidium Jancerienſe* was at home in this house, judging from the handsome, many-flowered flowers panicles seen on the plant. Its chocolate and yellow flowers have a rare attractiveness.

The Cattleyas and Lælias were in vigorous growth, the enormous bulbs having produced quantities of well-developed blossoms in all the colors, ranging from pure white to the richest purple. A gem among them is a well-flowered plant of the rare *C. Schofieldiana*, with unusually large blossoms, the sepals and petals being of a pale yellow, densely spotted with rich crimson, and a white lip with numerous violet-purple lines. Several plants of the striking, scarlet-flowered *C. superba splendens* were in bloom, as were large specimens of *C. guttata Leopoldi*, with enormous, many-flowered stems; quantities of the easy-growing *C. Gaskelliana* were here in perfection, and many fine examples of *C. Dowiana* were displaying the yellow of their sepals and petals, and the purple and orange of their lips. *C. Mendelii* was bearing full-sized blossoms out of season, with many noble plants of *C. Mossiæ* and the pretty *C. bicolor*.

The Lælias in this house were represented by handsome specimens of *L. elegans;* the rare *L. Rothschildiana*, the free-blooming *L. marginata* and quantities of the winter-blooming *L. anceps* were already pushing their spikes for later bloom. A plant of *Calanthe veratrifolia* among the Cattleyas carried hundreds of pure white flowers above its dark green foliage. *Phajus bicolor* was flowering with some large specimens of *Anguloa Ruckeri*, with its blood-red blossoms and the golden-yellow flowers, *A. clowesii*, and near them was the old but rare *Oncidium micropogon*, with dull chocolate and yellow flowers on erect stems.

Dendrobium Jamesianum, D. thyrsiflorum, D. Farmeri and the pretty *Epidendrum patens*, with its many-flowered spikes, formed a very attractive group. Another chaste Dendrobium, of recent introduction, called *D. hercoglossun*, was conspicuous, with quantities of rosy-pink flowers the full length of its pseudo-bulbs. This is, perhaps, one of the finest of the genus. Several plants of the new *Odontoglossum Harryanum*, with enormous blossoms, showed great variations. In many instances the ground color of the sepals and petals were handsomely veined with golden yellow. *Brassavola verosa* and *B. lineata* displayed their creamy flowers to perfection.

The splendid masses of Cypripediums, for which this collection is so famous, enlivened the house with their quaint blossoms. Amongst others were a splendid example of the rare *Cypripedium Schroderæ*, with enormous flowers; a large plant of the beautiful *C. Curtisii*, the recently-introduced *C. bellatulum*, and very many more of the rarest and most beautiful species and varieties.

In the house set apart for Vanda cultivation several remarkable kinds were blooming, including *Vanda tricolor*, with its large, bold flowers; *V. suavis* and its variety, *Roelianii*, and the large rose-flowered *V. teres*. But the most prominent plant in this house was the rare *Renanthera Storei*, with eighty-four expanded flowers. Its blossoms were exceedingly beautiful, of a brilliant scarlet, each individual flower measuring fully three inches in diameter. Other Renantheras were also in bloom, including *R. kystrix* and *R. matutina*, with its lovely orange and red flowers. Here, also, near the glass, was *Phalænopsis Reichenbachiana*, a species rarely met with except in the most select collections. In shape the flower resembles *P. Sumatrana*, the sepals and petals being creamy yellow, barred and spotted with dull chocolate. Several full-flowered specimens of *P. violacca*, with highly-colored flowers, together with *P. grandiflora* and *P. Esmeralda*, were suspended from the roof. The Saccolabiums and Ærides occupy the same house with the Vandas. Their stout, ærial roots were spreading in all directions, indicating that the proper treatment here is provided for them. A very handsome plant of Saccolabium (*S. Plumei Dayanam*), with its rich markings; and the old, free-blooming *Ærides quinquevulnerum*, with its bright magenta purple markings were noticeable.

The Odontoglossum house was still very gay, the heat of the past few weeks having shown but little effect upon the plants, there being in flower several broad-petalled varieties of *O. Alexandræ* and the yellow-flowered *O. Schleiperianum*. Here, too, was *Oncidium Limminghei*, with its numerous chaste yellow and chocolate blossoms, and a grand plant of *O. serratum*, with a spike measuring some ten feet in length.

Masdevallias were also represented by the curious *M. Chimæra, M. Reichenbachiana* and others. One of the most interesting features connected with this vast collection is a splendid group of Orchids of purely botanical interest. Here their fortunate possessor has amassed an endless variety of the most curious and interesting species, many of them unique, procured from various parts of the globe.

In the large Water Lily house few Orchids were blooming except *Lælia anceps*, having expanded blossoms, probably owing to the house being closed to gain the temperature for the giant Water Lily, *Victoria Regia*, which was growing rapidly, and in the early part of September its enormous blooms are expected to open, when it promises to be well worthy of a visit. Some very fine Nympheas enlivened this structure with their charming flowers, including, amongst others, *N. Zanzibarensis, N. cærulea, N. dentata, N. Devoniensis* and *N. odorata*. Mr. George Savage, the energetic and successful gardener, has for some time adopted the use of glazed pans and pots for the Orchids entrusted to his care. It was very surprising to see the Dendrobiums and Cattleyas especially, with their numerous roots, clinging to the outer surface of the pots, clearly indicating that glazed pots are in no way injurious to the plants. It also economizes a great amount of time and labor, their neat, clean and healthy appearance leaving nothing to be desired.

Rochester, N. Y. *A. D.*

New or Little Known Plants.

Erythronium Hendersoni.

PROBABLY the handsomest of all the Dog-toothed Violets is the recently-discovered Oregon species, which is here figured. While it is as graceful in habit as the common one, the bright and strongly colored flowers are more striking and attractive in their beauty. The petals have a very dark purple and somewhat blotched centre, which is surrounded by a band of yellow, and beyond this they are pale purple. The filaments are also purple, and the anthers are brownish. The flowers vary in number from a single one to three or four, usually quite large, with the petals, which are about one and a half inches long, more or less recurved, and becoming decidedly so with age. The leaves are mottled, as in most of the species.

Aside from the coloring of the flower, this species is characterized by the peculiar form of the appendages at the base of the inner petals. These appendages differ in form in different species of the genus, and in some are wholly wanting. Here the petal is very abruptly and almost hastately expanded above the very short claw, and the angles are thickened and somewhat saccate. Toward the median line there are two sub-globose, inflated appendages, which, with the filaments, almost close the orifice of the flower. The bases of the inner petals are so broad as to be nearly contiguous. The outer are narrowed

more gradually downward, and are wholly naked.

Another character to be noted is simple, club-shaped style, bearing a very shortly three-lobed and somewhat cup-shaped stigma. This character it has in common with two other species (*E. citrinum* and *E. Howellii*) of the same region, the common eastern *E. Americanum*, *E. propullans* of Minnesota, and an unnamed Texan species, otherwise much resembling *E. albidum*. All our other species have linear stigmas, including the eastern *E. albidum*, *E. purpurascens* and *E. Hartwegi* of the Sierra Nevada, and a confused group of several imperfectly known species common in the mountains from Montana and northern Colorado to the Pacific. These cannot be clearly defined until they have been carefully studied from living specimens. All are worthy of cultivation.

E. Hendersoni is a native of the mountains of south-western Oregon, where it was first collected in 1887 by Mr. L. F. Henderson, of Portland, and Mr. Thomas Howell, of Arthur, Oregon. *S. W.*

Fig. 50.—Erythronium Hendersoni.—See page 316.

Cultural Department.

Cultivation of Native Ferns.—I.

IT is the purpose of this series of papers to consider the cultivation of native Ferns which are hardy or nearly so in the region about Boston.

The Ferns considered, embrace all those found in New England and therefore most of the species found in the Middle-Atlantic and North-eastern States. A few native species not found in New England are included, as they are of interest to the horticulturist and are nearly or quite hardy.

The only work on the cultivation of Ferns published in this country is an instructive little book by Mr. John Robinson, entitled "Ferns in their Homes and Ours" (1878). This book treats of the cultivation of Ferns indoors and out, their propagation, classification, life-history, etc. It contains references to the literature of the subject and lists of Ferns for special purposes. For descriptions and figures of native Ferns the reader is referred to Professor Daniel C. Eaton's magnificent quarto work in two volumes, entitled "The Ferns of North America" (1879-80). Both works are published by S. E. Cassino, Boston.*

The cultivation of hardy Ferns as a class, has received very little attention in this country. They are seldom grown at all, and very rarely in the variety and perfection which it is possible to obtain from this beautiful and fascinating group of plants. Some object to Ferns because they are flowerless plants. Most species do depend entirely on their foliage effects for their beauty; but these are so rich, so delicate, so varied, that Ferns may well be considered most desirable plants in a garden. The spring holds forth no greater charm for the lover of nature than the keen pleasure to be enjoyed from watching the unfolding crozier-like fronds of growing Ferns. Some are strong and woolly, soft to the touch, others are covered with chaffy scales, the charm of which is irresistible, though difficult to describe; some again are smooth, some are green, others reddish-brown. Each kind is characteristic and has its own peculiar grace and beauty in the young as well as in the matured frond.

To the admirers of Ferns there is no need of upholding their desirable qualities for cultivation, but for the sake of those who are not familiar with them, a few may be mentioned. Ferns are excellent plants for filling up shady, dark and damp spots where other plants would utterly fail. Specimen plants make beautiful foliage effects. Clumps, carpets or individuals, either by themselves or mixed with suitable flowering plants, especially herbaceous and native species, make most attractive features in a garden. Even the landscape gardener who seeks for large effects, cannot afford to ignore our native Ferns. Massive clumps of Ferns from two to five feet high or more, according to the species grown, may be easily obtained by good cultivation. The value of such clumps, often of truly sub-tropical effect, can hardly be exaggerated for such positions as the border of shrubberies and wooded locations.

It is popularly believed that Ferns are difficult to cultivate, requiring very special conditions and treatment. In the main this may be said to be entirely incorrect; a few kinds, which

* "Our Native Ferns and their Allies" is the title of an inexpensive book, with descriptions, but few figures, by Lucien M. Underwood, latest edition (1888). For New England species, "Fern Etchings," by the late John Williamson, is a desirable book. It is most beautifully illustrated by etchings executed by the author. Published in Louisville, Ky. (second edition, 1879), but now, it is believed, out of print. Neither of these works treats of cultivation. There are many works on British and European Ferns. Two small and desirable books to a cultivator are: (1) "British Ferns and their Allies," by Thomas Moore, George Routledge & Sons, London and New York. (2). "The Fern Garden," by Shirley Hibberd. Groombridge & Sons, London, 1870.

are spoken of hereafter, require special treatment, and a few have resisted attempts to cultivate them successfully, but they are greatly in the minority. They are not only in the minority, but they comprise, for the most part, those species which are very small and unimportant to the general cultivator. Moderate sunshine is desirable for Ferns, provided it is not prolonged enough to dry up all moisture from the soil. A good, deep, moist loam, such as would be found on the north side of low buildings, fences or walls, or beneath the shade of trees that are not too absorptive of moisture, is a good place for a Fern border. In my garden the finest specimens get nearly full sunlight during the first halt of the day. A six-foot board fence, as well as distant buildings and trees to the south, though not overhanging the Ferns at all, cast a shade on them in the middle of the day and in the afternoon, and help to retain moisture in the soil by shading adjacent ground.

Ferns are grateful for all the care that may be bestowed on them in the way of watering; but yet most species will do very well without it in favorable situations. The writer's Ferns, with the exception of delicate species in pots, are watered only occasionally in the hottest midsummer weather, as that attention is needed more by other plants. A border which has been under cultivation and well enriched is the best for all but very delicate Ferns. Hardy Ferns are benefited by rich soil and thrive in borders which have been dressed for years with well-rotted manure. To copy nature is very well in attempting to cultivate plants that are difficult to grow or have resisted ordinary methods of handling, but no one should know better than a horticulturist that nature can be improved upon, and Ferns form no exception to the general rule. Give Ferns rich soil, good culture, and old, well-rotted manure, or coarser manure as a top dressing in the autumn, and dug in in spring. They will respond kindly to such treatment, and well established specimens of many of the large species will become rich, luxuriant growing plants, which will compare favorably with the very finest specimens to be found growing naturally. As a winter covering for delicate Ferns in the open ground, salt marsh grass, straw or leaves may be used; for all the stronger ones, littery manure is desirable. Some Ferns, mostly the smaller and more delicate species, it is best to plant with peat or leaf mould about the roots. Such additions, though not necessary, would doubtless be advantageous to all species.

Besides those Ferns which are perfectly hardy, there are many species from the New England woods, as well as from our North-west and from Europe, which will thrive if they have an extra protection in winter, and which, on account of their beauty and interest, well repay this trouble. This protection is best given by having such species in a bed which can be covered by a cold-frame in winter. Cover late in the autumn after the ground has slightly frozen, and do not uncover except for occasional examination until the frame is entirely removed in early spring before the Ferns start. The kinds for which this and other special care is desirable will be noted in the discussion of species later.

It may be well to state what is meant by hardiness or want of it in the discussion of native Ferns. Those which live successfully in the open ground in this vicinity without any winter protection other than a slight covering, such as is commonly used for hardy, herbaceous plants, are considered hardy. There are other Ferns from warmer or more protected localities, or perhaps collected in the same locality with perfectly hardy species, which, as a matter of experience, are found to be not perfectly hardy. These either will not stand most winters, or a very severe winter, like the past one, will carry them off. The want of hardiness may be due to several causes. The first and most natural cause is that they need more warmth than our cold winters afford them in an unprotected garden. They may come from dense woods and shaded cliffs, where, naturally, a winter covering of snow protects them from the vicissitudes of changing temperature to which they are subjected in an open garden, or, again, they may be plants a little difficult to cultivate, which may be grown successfully, however, if only spared the trying period of our changeable New England winters. The summer heat is sometimes considered the cause of failure in cultivating plants, but with Ferns, if in dry weather sufficient water is supplied, this cause need not be considered.

Boston. *Robert T. Jackson.*

Of course old Strawberry beds should not be allowed to mature a crop of weed seeds. But ploughing up the beds and replacing the old plants with new ones is generally better practice than any effort at cleaning them. Strong plants set now can be counted on for a good crop next year.

The Cultivation of Mushrooms.

OUR Mushroom house is underground, eighty-three feet long, eight and a quarter feet wide and seven feet high. It is arched with brick, and heated by a Hitchings' base-burner boiler, and a four-inch hot water pipe along each side of the house. We endeavor to have Mushrooms from the end of October or first of November till the end of April, when maggots begin to infest the Mushrooms, and on this account, together with the warm weather, it is useless to attempt to grow them during the summer. As it takes about ten or twelve weeks from the time the manure is gathered till Mushrooms can reasonably be looked for, it is time to begin now in order to have them in November and December. In some seasons Mushrooms are quite plentiful in the pastures in September and October, but good natural crops are not always to be had, even in favorable pastures.

We use horse-manure, as fresh as can be got, and with the roughest part of the straw shaken out. Manure that has been well moistened in the stable or in the barn cellar is better than the dry manure removed from the stable every morning; of this we have annual proof, as the best beds have always been made of manure that has accumulated in the cellar for a month before it was used. While manure from stables in which salt hay has been used for bedding should not be taken, I would use manure from stables where corn-husks, straw, hay or sawdust is used, but straw is preferable. Some growers prefer to use clean droppings, but I have never found this an advantage; some mix loam with the manure, but this has not been found of advantage here. Some books deprecate the use of manure from stables where carrots are fed, but this is nonsense, as carrots are fed here very liberally, and the manure from the carrot-fed stock raises excellent crops.

In preparing the manure, get together enough for a bed, say one-quarter or one-half cord, and have it all equally moist; if at all dry, do not hesitate to moisten it with water. Then throw it into a heap to ferment. In a few days, when the heat rises to about 120°, turn it over; at the same time shake it up loosely, and every day or two afterwards, for a couple of weeks or longer, turn it over again. The reason for turning it so often is to get rid of the rank heat, without letting the manure get "burned." When the temperature of the pile shows no tendency to rise above 120°, it is fit to use.

In private gardens there are often regular Mushroom houses, in which the beds are made upon the floor or on box shelves, one above the other, like berths in the cabin of a ship. But beds may be made in any dry cellar or shed, or under the benches in green-houses; almost anywhere, indeed, where they can be kept dry and temperately warm. Absolute darkness is not at all necessary, but shelter from windy draughts and shade from sunshine are necessary. The out-door cultivation of Mushrooms, practiced in Europe, is not practicable here.

The beds may be of any width or length convenient and about twelve inches deep. In making them shake the manure loosely, so as to spread it evenly; then beat or tread it down very firmly. In a few days the heat will probably rise to 120° or 125°, but let it subside to 100° or thereabouts before planting the spawn.

We have used the English brick and French flake-spawn; the English gives larger Mushrooms and the French whiter ones, but we prefer the bricks. When the bed is in proper condition for spawning, break up some brick-spawn into pieces about two inches square and plant these pieces into the surface of the bed, three inches deep, and in rows about nine inches apart each way. Then smooth over the surface of the bed and pack it firmly, as before. Some ten days after planting the spawn apply a coating of fresh loam one to two inches deep over the bed and beat it down smooth and firm. Endeavor to maintain a steady temperature of 60° day and night. A higher temperature may hasten the crop, a lower one retard it, but we have had, with a temperature of 60°, the best success.

Should the beds become dry sprinkle them with tepid water, but do not give enough to soak through the soil and into the manure, or the water may rot the spawn. Ventilate very carefully; so long as the atmosphere is sweet very little ventilation is needed. Never ventilate to reduce temperature. Avoid an over high artificial temperature; if it runs higher than 60° without fire-heat, ventilate to purify the atmosphere rather than to lower the temperature.

We gather the Mushrooms just as their gills are bursting; if not gathered until the heads are spread out they turn dark soon after being cut and are tougher and of poorer flavor than younger plants.

As a Mushroom bed will only last in good bearing condition for about three weeks, a succession of beds must be kept up in order to have a continuous crop. Many growers get a second crop from their beds, but I have always found it better to clear out the beds as soon as the first crop is over and replace them with new beds, than to depend upon the uncertainty of a second crop. *Wm. Falconer.*

Glen Cove, L. I.

The Vegetable Garden.

AN abundance of Lima and Snap Beans, Corn, Artichokes, Cauliflower, Spinach, Tomatoes, Lettuces, root crops and Melons, should now be found in every garden. And as the last sowings of Peas, Snap Beans, Corn, Carrots, Beets and Turnips have been made, and the late crops of Cabbage, Cauliflower and Celery planted, it is only necessary now to keep the ground clean and well stirred, and encourage growth as much as possible. Thin the young crops of Carrots and Beets by hand to about three inches in the rows and Turnips about four inches. Pull out and throw away all flowering plants of Carrots, Parsnips, Salsify and Scorzonera. Lift Potatoes as soon as they are perfectly ripe and store them in small bulk in a cool, airy, but rather dark place. If the Onion crop has not been harvested attend to it as soon as it is ready. The white skinned Onions if dried out-of-doors assume a greenish color, but if dried indoors in a dry, airy shed, they retain their whiteness. Gather, cut and dry Okra pods for winter use; also young pods of Martynia and seeds of Nasturtiums for pickles. Plant Parsley in cold-frames for winter use, and thin the seedlings recently sown in frames. Put in a moderately large sowing of Spinach, using Viroflay or Thick-leaved. This sowing will give an abundance of fine leaves till November or later; the regular winter supply had better not be sown till the second or third week of September. The Spinach-leaf maggot is usually very destructive in the fall, and I know of no remedy except a change of ground for the Spinach crop. The maggot generally appears in August or September and continues to infest the crop throughout the winter; during the late spring and summer months it disappears. About this time of year rabbits begin to be destructive to kitchen garden crops; they eat off newly planted Lettuces to the ground and the growing points out of the young Snap Beans; as a preventive, dust some soot or air slaked lime over the plants, when rabbits will not touch them.

Green-house Stages and Orchid Houses.—Mr. Hunnewell is renewing the stages in several of his green-houses, replacing the old with new ones made of iron and cement. The side tables are of cement supported by T-iron; along the centres of the houses the side-walls are of cement instead of brick, as is generally the case, and the stages for the plants are stair-step fashion and made of flat iron strips. These strips are about one and one-fourth inches wide by one-fourth inch thick, in some cases set edgewise and about one or one and one-fourth inches apart, in others flat and about half an inch apart. While no doubt those set edgewise form the strongest stage, still Mr. Harris, the gardener, prefers those set flat, as they are strong enough for all ordinary purposes and much more easily painted. These stages, in the Orchid houses, have tanks of water under them both on the sides and centre of the house. The middle tank is of cement, two or more feet deep, open at the top and extending all the way under the staging. A hot water pipe is also laid through it to warm the water and in this way increase evaporation if need be. Mr. Harris speaks in much praise of this plan, but some other skilled orchidists dislike it. There is a detached and deeper tank at one end of the house in which the warm water from the stage tank may be run for watering the plants.

House at Honmoku in Japan.—See page 314.

The side tables of the cool Orchid house are of cement and trough-shaped above so as to hold a few inches deep of water. Over this a flat iron staging made of the same material as described above is laid and supported on iron rests, which are placed in the water so as to afford no chance for vermin, such as cockroaches, slugs or wood-lice, to get to the plants.

Mr. Ames' Orchid house stages are also of cement and iron, but there are no open water tanks or troughs under the plants; a coating of gravel is laid over the tables and kept moist. The luxuriant vigor of Mr. Ames' cool Orchids is a good indication of genial quarters. It is a very long, lean-to structure facing the north, nine feet high at the back, eight feet wide and four feet high in front. The pathway is three feet wide and alongside of the back wall, and the bench, which is five feet wide, is all on one level, in front. But as such a wide stage must necessarily be unhandy, recesses in the bench three feet wide by two feet deep occur, with eight feet intervals all along the pathway. The inside back wall is covered with netting to hold some sphagnum, and is kept a living carpet of dwarf Selaginella. The pathway is of cement. Ventilation is admitted all along the roof at the top, and in the front wall ventilators nine by fourteen inches occur at distances of twelve feet apart. The house is heated by steam with six rows of one and a half inch pipes under the bench. *W. F.*

Lenten Roses.—These are hybrids and varieties of species of Hellebore which bloom during April and May. They are far more satisfactory as hardy plants in America than Christmas Roses. A good, deep loam, partial shade, plenty of water during the growing season—April and May—and a covering of horse litter, for the purpose of protection in winter, is all they require. The flowering stem in *H. Ellebrus niger* is produced directly from the crown in the form of a one, rarely two, flowered, leafless scape. In the Lenten Roses the inflorescence is much branched; the secondary branches bear two or three flowers, and are always accompanied by almost stalkless, yet normal, leaves. The flowers are spreading, or campanulate, and vary in color from white to slatey purple, with sometimes a mixture of both, and prettily spotted. Propagation is by division, which should always be done in spring; or by seeds, sown as soon as ripe, and kept over in a cool frame to be brought into the green-house to germinate in spring. Some of the best are *H. atrorubus, H. Caucasicus punctatus, H. Colchicus, H. Olympicus, H. orientalis* and its varieties, many of which are sold under specific titles, such as, *H. orientales antiquorum*, one of the best, with flowers white, softly toned with pink and gray; *H. orientales guttatus*, white, and one of the earliest and best for cutting, being quite equal in beauty to a Christmas Rose, but not lasting so long when cut. The hybrids raised by F. C. Heinemann and others are mostly with *H. orientalis*, the seed-bearing parent and the foregoing species. The best are: Albin Otto, Commissioners Benary, F. C. Heinemann, Hofgärten, Inspector Hartweg and Willy Schmidt, the latter being robust in habit, with pure white flowers, which should make it valuable to the trade.

T. D. Hatfield.

Plant Notes.

Primula Rusbyi.

THE inquiry of an English correspondent concerning the habitat of this new Primrose prompts me to send to Garden and Forest a note on the beauty of the plant, its discovery and habitat.

Early on the morning of the 4th of May, 1881, I had left my camp at the end of a wagon road in one of the cañons of the base of the Santa Rita Mountains of southern Arizona, had mounted successive heights—the grassy slopes covered with a sparse growth of Oaks and Arbutus, the breezy ridges crowned with Pines, and the more difficult steeps dark with the Douglas Spruce—and was clambering painfully up the long, bare crest of Mount Wrightson, the monarch of that mountain group, when I was reanimated by the exclamations of delight of my young assistant, then a little in advance, over the prettiest flower he had yet seen in Arizona, as he declared. I found it to be a Primula. It was much smaller than *P. Parryi* of the mountains of Colorado, but so nearly answering to the description of that species, that I puzzled over it, as I collected it again and again on those summits, trying to learn if it was really distinct, until Mr. Greene named it and described it from specimens collected by Mr. Rusby in New Mexico in August following.

Its habitat is the meagre soil of bare ledges and the verge and shelves of cliffs of summits of 7,000 to 10,000 feet elevation. Its range from the mountains about Clifton, New Mexico, southward along the Cordilleras certainly as far as 200 miles beyond the boundary.

The beauty of this Primula must make it a choice addition to the list of plants for rockeries, etc., and the fact that along the northern limits of its distribution it must be exposed to much freezing is a guarantee of its hardiness.

The "Sour" or "Pie Cherry," is a conspicuous object during the last weeks of July in central and northern New Hampshire, where a farm house is rarely seen without a clump of this low spreading tree or bush along the garden walls. It is a variety of the old Morello Cherry, a form of *Prunus Cerasus*. The bright red fruit hanging upon long stems is very ornamental and as the birds do not relish its acid flesh it hangs a long time. Formerly the Sour Cherry was very generally cultivated through the Middle and Northern States, but the Black Knot, to which this plant is subject, has nearly exterminated it, in spite of its habit of spreading by suckers which it throws up vigorously in all directions. According to Darlington, it had almost entirely disappeared from Pennsylvania early in the century, and it is now unknown in southern New England, although it was a common garden plant in that part of the country thirty or forty years ago. In the prairie states, too, it has had to succumb, and it is now apparently in northern New England only that this once common and familiar plant can be seen in this country. The New Hampshire plants are sometimes infested with the Black Knot, but they are often quite free from it; and there is every appearance that they will survive there many years longer. The Morello Cherry is sometimes ten or even twenty feet high, with slender, graceful branches, spreading out horizontally and forming a round bushy top. The leaves are one and a half to three inches long, on slender petioles rarely an inch long. The fruit stalks are usually solitary, sometimes in fascicles of two or three. The fruit is fleshy, acid, rarely more than a half or two-thirds of an inch in diameter, bright red or nearly purple when dead ripe. Formerly this was considered the best Cherry for cooking, and was highly esteemed in the manufacture of "Cherry Bounce." *S.*

Aralia Cashimerica.—This is one of the noblest and most stately hardy herbaceous plants of recent introduction. It forms a mass of dark green foliage, six feet high by as much through, and in August bears narrow terminal racemes, three or four feet long, composed of numerous umbels of white flowers. The leaflets of the immense compound leaves are four or five inches long, hispidulous, sharply serrate, broadly acuminate, prominently veined, with a pale lower surface. It is a native of the mountains of Cashmere and of Afghanistan, where the botanists of the late Afghan Boundary Commission found it in the Birch forests of the Malana valley at an elevation of nearly 10,000 feet. It would be difficult to find a better subject among herbaceous plants for planting singly on the margins of a lawn or shrubbery. *Aralia Cashimerica* is perfectly hardy, and may be easily raised from seed, which it produces in great abundance. *D.*

Shepherdia argentea.—A correspondent writing from Mandan, in Dakota, calls attention to the probable value of this plant, the Bull Berry of the settlers in the upper Missouri valley, for hedges in the severe climate of the northern plains. "The Shepherdia grows on the Missouri bottoms, where it is sometimes overflowed, and where it reaches a height of twenty-five feet and is somewhat diffuse; it is most abundant on the steep bluffs of streams where there is not much grass, but it appears also on the summits of some of the highest and driest buttes in this vicinity, where it is short and compact. It seems to grow slowly. Isolated clumps of these bushes are beautiful. The red berries are gathered and used for food by Indians and by whites, and are said to make good jelly." The *Shepherdia* is hardy at the east, and, when covered with its bright red fruit, extremely ornamental.

A New Rose.—In the report of the July meeting of the Belgian Botanical Society, M. Crépin gives a full account of a supposed very fine new species of Tea Rose, which has been discovered by General Collett on the mountains between Birmah and Siam. It has a pure white flower, five inches in diameter,

and differs from the common *Rosa chinensis, Jacq.* (*R. indica, Auct.*) by its single-flowered inflorescence, entire outer sepals, unarmed floriferous axis, and very large flower. It may prove to be an extreme variety of *R. chinensis*, but at any rate cultivators should look after it. It is fully described in M. Crépin's paper under the name of *Rosa gigantea*, Collett MSS.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

The Florists' Convention.

Extracts from Papers Read.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

"What we need, and what our profession demands, is a training school for our children and the young men who are to follow in our footsteps, where shall be taught a scientific and technical knowledge of the things pertaining to plant life and plant growth, in their relations to soil, and heat, and water. Our need, and the need of the young men who are to follow, is such an education as will enable us to analyze soils, and to know, scientifically, their constituent parts, and their relation to the fibre and tissue of a plant; to be able to detect deleterious and injurious substances, to check and control the chemical action in soils, to adjust to a nicety the proportions of heat, food and water. Our most successful men are often confounded and amazed at their own failures, and can seldom assign an intelligent reason for the same. Often in the same house, under apparently similar conditions, with the same kind of soil, failure attends, where, in former years, was had abundant success. Instances of this kind abound on every hand, and we are all familiar with them. This need not be, for with a right education and proper training—such as I hope awaits the young men of the future—these problems, so serious and difficult to ourselves, will, to them, disappear as the dew before the morning sun. This knowledge, so desirable and important, can only be imparted by specialists and teachers devoted to such work. Industrial and scientific education is making remarkable progress the world over, and we, who have the good of the profession at heart, must see to it that it is kept abreast of the times. With all our boasted achievements in plant growing and flower production, the fact remains that it has been wrought out by an enormous waste of time and physical force. How to correct this, is the question uppermost in the minds of many thoughtful florists.

"Mr. Thorpe, in his address to you at Philadelphia, expressed a desire that at no distant date there might be established a National Experimental Garden; if to that could be united a school for the special training of persons for our vocation, where a practical and scientific education would be imparted, such an institution would prove of incalculable benefit to every member of the trade."

Mr. Hill suggested, as an incentive to experiments in hybridizing, that the Society should offer liberal prizes for new plants of American origin, and closed with some sound advice on commercial integrity, from which we quote:

"Those desiring the good of the profession, and who have its welfare at heart, have entered solemn protest against the dissemination of plants under false names. This abuse, which has grown out of avarice and a lack of moral principle, must be checked. We must not, we cannot afford to pass this matter by; the fact remains that the most unblushing frauds have been perpetrated on an over-confident public. Commercial probity, uprightness in our dealings with our patrons, is one of the things this Society must insist upon, until this blight which has fastened itself upon our calling is eliminated and destroyed. There must be no uncertain sound issue from this body of men on this particular subject.

"The renaming of plants must not be overlooked. We must hold inviolate and sacred the right of any man or woman to name the plant through whose skill, patience and care it has been produced; and not only that, but we must, by the moral force of this Society, render secure his or her right and title in the same forever. No one has the right, either through caprice or malice, to change or attach any other name save that given it by its disseminator.

"Another suggestion in connection with this subject may with propriety be referred to. Where the translated name from a foreign tongue is used, the original should follow in parenthesis. I question the expediency of using translations, but if it must be done, it is only right and proper that the original shall follow. To do this will certainly allay suspicion, and would prevent the unsuspecting from making duplicate purchases."

ROSES FROM THE GROWER'S STANDPOINT.

This was the subject of a paper by Mr. Edwin Lonsdale, of Philadelphia.—After stating that the first essential in the case was that the Rose could be profitably produced, the speaker discussed at length the value of different varieties:

"Bon Silene is a very old favorite, and is still one of the most profitable varieties in many localities. Its fresh pink color and ideal shape commends it to all flower lovers, and its productiveness will keep it on the list for some time to come. The day has gone by for high prices, of course, but it will continue in steady demand.

"Catharine Mermet commands the admiration of every one who sees it. Its delicate coloring, delicious fragrance and exquisite form has made it a deserved favorite. Unfortunately, not all of us can grow it profitably. Many admit that they are compelled to grow it, but it does not pay. It requires special treatment to bring out its paying qualities; and is very much inclined to run to blind wood if grown in too light a soil. It prefers a rather stiff, though porous, soil, for no Rose is more impatient of excessive moisture at the roots, and a night temperature of not higher than fifty-five degrees produces the finest flowers.

"The Bride is a sport from the last named variety, being identical with it, excepting in color, which is white. It has established itself as one of the best white Roses we have. Of course it does not compare with the Puritan when at its best, nor with Niphetos for productiveness; but it can generally be depended upon to bring a fair price when delivered in good condition. It has almost entirely displaced Cornelia Cook, and will hold its own for some time to come.

"Niphetos, it has been said, will be grown when all the white Roses now in cultivation have been forgotten. This is perhaps going a little too far; but it goes to show in what esteem this Rose is held, either by itself in a bouquet, or in "set" pieces, for which purpose no Rose is better adapted. For productiveness, taking quality through the crop, I think it leads them all.

"Much was hoped from the Puritan; and these hopes had some foundation; but, alas! experience has demonstrated that the majority of the many buds formed produce imperfect blooms. After the experience of last winter, it cannot be placed on the list of Roses likely to prove profitable.

"The advent of the now somewhat old and famous Perle des Jardins marked a new era in Rose culture. Hitherto Safrano and Isabella Sprunt were the standard sorts grown, with Bon Silene. Maréchal Neil was only grown in a few localities, but the Perle was accorded a place in every establishment, and it caused many florists to turn their attention to Rose growing. It will be a long time before the Perle is superseded, and, for general purposes, it remains one of the best we have. However, it is true that some of our very best growers do not find it profitable, because of so many flowers coming malformed. It is believed by some florists to require a more porous soil than most varieties do, and a night temperature of from 60° to 65°.

"Sunset is a sport from the last named and requires the same treatment. It has entirely superseded Safrano, and its offspring, Ned Falcot, and is likely to be more popular in the future than it has been in the past.

"Papa Gontier has not been in general cultivation sufficiently long for all growers to learn its requirements thoroughly, or to bring out its good qualities. That it has established itself as a favorite amongst flower buyers there is no doubt. Its long stems and good foliage would give it high rank, even if its fine color were not so desirable. The tendency to lose its leaves in winter, however, is against it, and if this tendency can be overcome it must be considered a first-class variety.

"Souvenir d'un Ami is another very old Rose and never much of a favorite as a cut flower. Its popularity is evidently on the wane in New York, possibly because of the preference for larger Roses.

"La France bounded in popular favor suddenly as a winter bloomer. Its adaptability for forcing must have been discovered about the time Mr. Bennett's Hybrid Teas were introduced, to which class La France undoubtedly belongs. It is a great favorite with all flower lovers, and, generally speaking, profitable to the grower. More than a dozen florists have told me that it has been the best paying Rose they grew. La France, and, in fact, all Hybrid Teas, under which head may be classified Duke of Connaught, William F. Bennett, Countess of Pembroke and a few others, are more susceptible to the attacks of Black Spot than the true Teas are. As a preventive of this, avoid too much moisture during cool weather. The fall months, before it is thought time to start a fire, are the worst for this class of Roses.

"No Rose ever created so much attention in this country as the William F. Bennett. The high price paid for half the stock, and the peculiar restriction placed upon it, aided in whetting the appetite of all florists, especially when its color and form were known. It has been one of the most valuable Roses introduced into our list of winter blooming sorts for a number of years. The $5,000 paid for the Rose proved to be a good advertisement, and few of those who invested in it when first distributed ever had cause for regret. It is a hard Rose to get started on account of its free blooming tendency, but by persistent disbudding, when planted no more than three or four inches deep in rich, light soil, on a well-drained table, it is one of the most profitable varieties grown. It requires more heat than most of the Teas, and seems to improve in constitution every year.

"Madame Cuisin has had a hard struggle to gain the recognition to which it is entitled. It is a distinct type from the class generally in use for cut flowers in winter, being somewhat short in petal, and if cut too soon it has a diminutive appearance; but when allowed to get two-thirds open, at which time it is at its best, it has the appearance, to those unacquainted with it, of being ready to drop. It is, however, one of the best varieties for keeping in the whole list.

"Mademoiselle de Watteville belongs to the same class, but it is larger, and lighter in color. It is sometimes called the Tulip Rose, because the edges of the petals are tipped with a darker shade of pink. It has been planted quite extensively for the New York market, but whether it will prove a wise investment or not remains to be seen.

"American Beauty is perhaps the most remarkable Rose on the list. A Rose of its size, form and fragrance, and at the same time a perpetual bloomer, is indeed a great stride onward. Some may feel that it is more of a boon to the retailers than to the grower; certain it is that good flowers of it would never sell at wholesale for less than $25 per hundred so long as the fires are going. It was introduced to the American public just when the large Hybrid Perpetual Roses had become fashionable, and flower buyers wanted them at all seasons of the year. American Beauty has relieved the retailers from all anxiety, for it is obtainable from January to September. A houseful of these plants, when doing well, is a splendid sight; their large, finely formed, sweet-scented, pink Roses, borne on shoots several feet high, would make even its severe European critics change their tone. It is easy to understand why it is condemned over the sea, because it is useless out-of-doors even here, and in winter time under glass, in that sunless climate, it could not open its blossoms with any degree of satisfaction. It seems to do equally well in solid beds and tables. It will stand much heat and moisture when in good health, and seems to do better the third year after planting out than the first. The plan of bending down the strong shoots seems to be the best for this Rose. It causes flowering shoots to break from the base, which generally produce fine blooms."

FROM THE ESSAY OF MR. H. H. BATTLES.

"Every person engaged in growing plants should know the first principles, at least, in botany. Last winter, while talking to a grower who had been in business all his life, as had his father before him, I asked him a few questions about hybridizing, thinking I would try to instruct myself by getting some good, practical ideas. He said "he did not take much stock in it, and thought it better to let Nature take its course and let them cross themselves." It occurred to me that an argument like this was on a par with advising faith cure to a disabled man when the most skilled and advanced surgical operation was necessary. Darwin was hardly of this gentleman's way of thinking; he made a great many experiments in hybridizing; he speaks of the seventh generation of plants, and crossing them when grown under different conditions; of the struggle for existence among them, the effect of climate on reproduction, the sleep of the plants, self-production during sleep, the influence of gravitation upon them, the power of digestion, their movements in relation to their wants and the diverse means by which they gain their subsistence. A great many of the subjects seem to be of no practical use, but putting our minds in this channel is what elevates, not only ourselves, but those with whom we come in contact, and in order to do this we must first become interested in botany. On this subject there is no better teacher than the late Professor Asa Gray, whom, it is said, no one has ever yet approached, in the rare art of making purely scientific theories and dry details popular and interesting. From his charming elementary work, "How Plants Grow," to his more elaborate "Manual," there is one simple, concise, and yet exhaustive, method of treating the various grades of the science. Flowery rhetoric, beautiful figures, lofty speculations and romantic fancies are discarded, and in their place is a simplicity of statement, a transparency of language and an enthusiasm which lights up every page. The leading scientific men of this country and Europe have awarded the highest place in the galaxy of botanists to Professor Gray.

Now, for the dealer to know the habits and requirements of plants would be very useful and interesting; but there are other subjects which demand his attention first. He comes directly in contact with consumers, not only caters to their wants, but stimulates the demand for flowers by the judicious handling of them. Surrounded by the most beautiful colors, the most exquisite forms, and the most delicious fragrance in nature, one of the first thoughts of the dealer should be the artistic arrangement of flowers. Taste, to a very great degree, is a matter of education, and the study of color, form and position should be carefully considered; the knowledge of a few of the laws of color are absolutely essential to the intelligent arrangement of flowers."

After stating the laws to be observed in the proper mingling of various colors, Mr. Battles gave several rules for practice, like the following: "If you have a blue vase, use orange tints, if a green one, use red. If you are obliged to use flowers that do not harmonize, separate and relieve them with white ones. Be careful of reds, which are the most trying colors. It is not unusual to see an expensive design or basket in which is some choice tone of red, say a Jacqueminot Rose, where the effect is entirely destroyed by a few red Carnations or Bouvardia, which would have been much better thrown away than put into the design.

"The study of color is a beautiful and interesting one and does not lack text-books; the subject is exhaustively treated by Chevreul, 'On Color,' who is at the head of Gobelin's Tapestry works, and has made this subject a life study; also in G. Field's 'Chromatograph,' which has been modernized by J. S. Taylor, London. There is a delightful book on color, too, by A. H. Church."

THE CULTIVATION OF PALMS.

Mr. C. D. Ball, of Holmesburg, Pa., read a paper on "Ferns, Palms, and Decorative Plants," from which we take the following:

"Nearly all Palms are propagated from imported seeds, which, if obtained fresh, are not difficult to germinate. Orders should be placed early enough to insure getting new crops as soon as possible after being gathered. Some varieties soon lose their vitality, and the sooner they are planted after being received the more likelihood there will be of good results. In sowing I use five or six inch pots, filling them about one-third full of broken pot or charcoal for drainage. The soil used should be a mixture of about equal parts finely-sifted peat and loam, to which a little sand is added. The seeds can be planted thickly, almost touching each other. They should be covered with from half an inch to an inch deep, according to the kind and size of seeds, and the surface pressed firm and smooth. Then plunge the pots to the rim in cocoa-fibre in a warm house, where a fair bottom heat can be maintained. The soil should be kept always moist, but not wet, or the seeds are likely to decay before they germinate. By plunging the pots in the manner recommended it can be kept in this condition without frequent watering.

"The time required to germinate varies under different conditions and with different varieties. Some kinds, such as *Areca lutescens*, *Latania Borbonica*, *Cocos Weddeliana*, etc., usually take from one to two months before the growth shows above the surface. The young plants should not be potted off too soon; it is better to leave them until they are thoroughly rooted and the tops are well up. *Areca lutescens*, Kentias and some others of this type should be left until the second leaf appears. When ready they should be potted off into as small-sized pots as will contain the roots without injury. A two or three inch rose-pot I prefer, on account of the long, stiff roots made. The soil should be about the same as that used for the seeds. After potting they should be placed in a close, warm house. Yet great care must be taken in watering; the roots and foliage are tender, and easily damped off if kept too wet. The best plan is to plunge the pots in cocoa-fibre, fine ashes or something similar. A more even temperature can be maintained at the roots and the soil can be kept moist without frequent watering. A little bottom heat is of great help to the plants until they have become established.

"The second shift should not be made until they are well rooted through and somewhat pot-bound, and then to the

next sized pot only, using about the same kind of soil as before, although it is best not to sift it now. The larger pieces can be chopped up sufficiently fine to use, as Palms like open, fibrous soil. At the next shift, and from that time on, I lessen the quantity of peat to about one-third part, and add a small portion of fine, well-rotted cow manure for all the stronger rooting varieties. With most of the more rapid growing varieties the plant will now have reached the four-inch pot stage. This can be attained by proper handling in about one year from the time they were taken from the seed-pots. From now on the same precautions should be taken not to over-pot or over-water at the roots. Good drainage in the pots is always essential as the soil must be kept pure and well drained. While growing, all Palms require frequent syringing over the foliage, especially during the spring and summer months. In winter little or no growth is made and water should not be applied so liberally. About the middle of February they should be thoroughly overhauled, as this is the time they will want to move forward again. Those requiring more pot room should be shifted into a pot a size larger; very often, however, it is better to shake the old soil out and repot into the same sized pot if it is found that the roots are not perfectly healthy and there are not plenty of them. Care should be taken at every potting that no part of the stem be buried. The plant-base must merely rest on the surface of the soil. The roots should never be cut, as with some varieties it might prove very disastrous.

"During the spring and summer the growth of the year should be made, and shifting on should be done, whenever required, before fall. Plenty of moisture and heat is necessary to get a good growth, and syringing, once or twice a day, and water thrown on the paths on hot, sunny days is advisable. Sufficient ventilation should not be overlooked, as pure air is essential. Even during the summer it is often well to keep the fires going slowly, to maintain an even temperature. The houses should be kept well shaded, as Palms will not stand the full sunlight. The foliage is easily affected. A few applications of manure water during the summer will be very beneficial with most varieties.

"If wanted for fall sales they should be hardened off before that time by gradually lowering the temperature and admitting air more freely; it would not do to send them out in a soft condition."

NOMENCLATURE.

The purpose of this paper, prepared by Mr. R. J. Halliday, of Baltimore, was not to correct the botanical names of plants, but to enforce the advantages of uniform names of plants in trade.

"My idea," said Mr. Halliday, "is to correct floral nemenclature, and to abolish the high-sounding names which are bestowed on plants, so that we can understadingly buy from and sell to each other. The best way to accomplish this, I believe, would be to appoint a committee of twelve reliable men to classify and regulate nomenclature. The committee would do much towards removing existing abuses—fixing correct names in place of misleading ones. In catalogues and classifications the scientific, as well as the popular name of a flower, should be given on all occasions. The omission has been the source of much annoyance. Suppose we have a Fuchsia named Souvenir de Prince Albert, imported from France, under this florist's name. Some one, not satisfied with the name, changes it to Babbling Brook, in order to have something different from his brother florists. Is not the public deceived by such a course? Heliotrope Madame Blomage, imported from Europe and here re-named Snow Wreath, was ordered back by Cannell, of Swanley, England, who had it already under its proper name. He was so angry with us for our Yankee trick, having the plant in abundance, that he named it White Lady, and not a few American florists paid a fancy price for it under the latter name, although, by this time, it had become well known and cheap in this country under two other names. There are many cases similar to this. What is the proper name for rose Ball of Snow—is it an American Seedling, or is it Boule de Neige, of French origin? If the latter, I would like to catalogue it with both names, one in italics, as many persons believe this to be a new Rose. French growers say, Only one of our Yankee tricks! We do not want a bad reputation abroad. Is the Geranium White Swan an American seedling, or is it La Cygne, which I imported two years ago? If the latter, would not your committee recommend catalogues to give the French and English name in brackets?

"To remedy this, as I have said, a committee of twelve men, of whom nine should agree before a verdict is formed, would be a step in the right direction. The beginner in the business wants authority for what he sees displayed in our catalogues and heralded over the country in magazines and newspapers. We want fewer names and more distinct kinds. Catalogues are becoming a jumble and a reduction is needed in plant names. Every florist should have the right to name his own seedling; this right should be preserved and no one allowed to re-name it and place it on the market under any other appellation. This Committee of Nomenclature which I propose should be empowered to pass on lists of plants submitted by members of the association at its annual meeting. Such species and varieties as in its judgment are entitled to the approval of the Association, should be recommended when at least nine of the members concur, and the list should be official upon approval by a majority vote of the members present at any general meeting. It should also be the duty of the committee to declare, when the same plant is sold under different names, which name shall be adopted; to make lists of Roses and other plants that are identical, although they have been known under several names, and to settle all questions brought before it as to the correct names of plants, where the name may be questioned or a dispute arise."

Convention Notes.

In his address of welcome, Mr. John N. May gave the following graphic illustration of the growth of the trade in flowers in this city: "About the year 1840 Isaac Buchanan, who is still in active business, carried daily his available stock in a large basket, to be sold at what is now the head of Wall Street, and he then considered it a good day's trade to take in two dollars, while three dollars was an extra large sum for one day's sales. As late as the year 1871 two members of the firm of Perfnock Bros., of Philadelphia, then, as now, the leading cut flower dealers of that city, came to New York in search of rosebuds for the Assembly ball, and, after spending three days here and visiting all the principal growers, returned with fifty-nine buds. Contrast that fact with the trade now, when the daily average of rosebuds sent to this city amounts to over 30,000, and when, instead of plants being brought to New York in baskets, more than one hundred large wagon loads are sent every market day, in the spring, to the West Street market alone, not to speak of the supply at the innumerable stands dotted all over the city."

Mr. Charles T. Starr, of Avondale, Pennsylvania, said: "Among Carnations I consider the Century and Portia the best red varieties; Grace Wilder leads in pink; Buttercup is still by far the best yellow, though several others have their strong claims, and may do best in some sections. Chester Bride is the finest of variegated colors, of decided character for that class, and among the white kinds we use Kinzies, as the finest of late ones. Peter Henderson does well when old or early propagated plants are used, and Snowden when grown from cuttings made from the ends of the blooming stalks, just before they show bud. The new white called William Swayne seems to combine the good qualities of the two last named, and promises to be the finest white, for this section at least. Soil seems to exert such an influence on the growing of Carnations, as also does the construction of forcing-houses to bloom them in, that it will be very difficult to make a list that would suit all circumstances. Judicious experience is the only safe guide."

Mr. Benjamin Gray, of Malden, Massachusetts, said it was a happy coincidence that the kinds of Orchids profitable for florists' use are all of easy cultivation. The best sorts, easily obtainable, are *Lælia autumnalis* and *S. albida*, *Cattleya Trianæ*, *Cœlogne cristata*, *Calanthe Veitchi*, *C. vestita rubra* and *C. vestita lutea*, *Dendrobium nobile* and *D. Wardianum*. If to these we add *Cypripedium insigne*, *C. Harrisianum*, *C. villosum* and *C. Spicerianum*, *Cattleya Bowringiana* and *Odontoglossum Alexandræ* we have a list which will give us succession of bloom from November until March, the season during which Orchid flowers are in greatest demand. The kinds named may all be grown in the same house, with the exception of the Calanthes and Dendrobiums, which require a high temperature, with plenty of water while growing, and should be kept cool, with enough water to prevent them from shriveling while at rest and until the buds are formed, when they may be brought into the house with the others, a few at a time, for succession of bloom.

In reply to the question whether propagation from blind shoots had a tendency to render plants less floriferous, Mr. James Pentland, of Baltimore, replied, "Emphatically, no, and

this after an experience of fifty years." Mr. J. N. May added, that in a recent test, he had propagated 300 plants—Catharine Mermet Roses—from blooming shoots, which were the finest and strongest he could find in his house, and also 300 plants from what is usually termed "blind wood." He continued: "Do not understand that this wood was taken from little weak shoots. It was taken from good, firm wood, with healthy foliage. As a result, I have failed to see a particle of difference in the produce of these plants. I am convinced that, so long as we propagate from good, sound wood, whether it be blind or blooming, we will get as good a plant in the one instance as in the other."

Here are a few sentences from the address of Mr. Battles which florists should remember: "When a gentleman wishes to send a very large and expensive bouquet, the salesman should advise sending the flowers loose in a box (which can be arranged prettily), that the lady may select the ones she wishes to wear. . . . . A practice which is not quite extinct, is that of making handles on corsage bouquets, and covering them with tin foil; the sooner this is done away with, the better. . . . . How many people have very unhappy recollections of funerals where they have been surrounded by ghastly designs and stifling odors. . . . . Lettering on designs has been greatly overdone. I would advise strongly against it; often customers insist, but, if left to your taste, decide against it."

"Three years ago," said Mr. Robert Craig, "the *Latania Borbonica*, in six-inch pots, found tardy sale, in New York and Philadelphia, at 75 cents each. The increased demand for that class of plants is such that now they readily bring about twice that amount, and the supply is not nearly equal to the demand. In fact, the demand for these plants has already influenced the price in Europe. In several recent importations at least twenty per cent. has been added to the price. This is an indication that the increased use of Palms here has been felt abroad, even with vast quantities there grown. I am sure that this price and demand will continue to grow, because we cannot get these grand effects from any other class of plants."

Mr. M. A. Hunt, of Terre Haute, Ind., in replying to the question, "What varieties of Roses introduced within the last two years are worth growing for winter forcing?" said that "Almost without an exception those which gave great promise have proven failures for this purpose." He had found an exception in the case of a little Rose not very generally known, but which can be highly recommended to those who are in a position to make up their own work, though not, perhaps, for shipping for any distance. He referred to the Primrose Dame. Although not a strong grower, it is a very productive Rose, finely shaped and, either in the bud or open Rose-form, is one which is very desirable.

Halls for exhibiting plants, flowers and fruits are better, as well as more cheaply constructed, without board floors. Plants can then be arranged in groups on raised banks or in depressions of various forms best adapted to the character of the different objects to be displayed. Where green sod or moss can be easily procured a better effect can be produced than when plants are staged on tables. Besides this, water, which is always needed in abundance in such exhibitions, can be used to much better advantage with such an arrangement. For fruits and cut flowers, side tables in most halls can be neatly arranged just under the windows, in which light such things are best displayed.

Mr. Ernest Asmus, of West Hoboken, N. J., said, that among Hybrid Perpetuals for early forcing, say from December until February, light colored varieties are the most suitable. His choice of six was Anna Alexieff, Anna de Diesbach, Mrs. John Laing, Magna Charta, Achilles, Gounod and Madame Gabriel Luizet. For late forcing, the best among light colored Roses are Paul Neyron, Baroness de Rothschild, Merveille de Lyon, Mabel Morrison, Captain Christy, Victor Verdier, Marquis de Castellaine, Henry Schulthers and Ulrich Brunner; and, among dark ones, Gen. Jacqueminot, Prince Camille de Rohan, Louis Van Houtte and Baron de Bonstetten.

A good market Chrysanthemum must have a strong, vigorous habit, with branches able to sustain the flowers erect, and fine, healthy foliage. The flowers should be large and well-developed, and not more than two or three on a spray. The colors should be distinct and unique. There is a strong demand for the finest possible flowers, as compared with the smaller pompon varieties. This suggests that growers would do well to pay more attention to quality than to quantity.

A prize of $500 was offered by Mr. Peter Henderson for the best herbarium, to consist of not less than 500 species of native plants, arranged according to their natural orders. This prize is to be open for competition to gardeners or the sons of gardeners, or to any one engaged in the trade as a grower or seller of plants, who is also a member of the Society. Mr. Henderson's offer was accepted unanimously with a vote of thanks.

Mr. John Smith, of Yonkers, gave it as his experience that slate, when used for benches, exercised no deleterious influence on plants. Indeed, plants on slate benches were much less liable to attacks from various pests than plants on benches of wood, which afforded harbor for insects and vermin, besides encouraging the growth of harmful fungi as they decayed.

Mr. Thomas Cartledge, of Philadelphia, said that only Roses with long stems and good foliage could be sold to advantage. A large and perfect flower with a short stem and poor foliage did not satisfy customers, and would not sell as readily or for as good a price as a fair or ordinary flower, well furnished with good leaves and a long stem.

"To keep down the ravages of snails among Ferns no better means can be employed than Lettuce leaves, Potatoes, or Turnips hollowed out. Perhaps Lettuce leaves are the best. The snails creep inside the leaves during the night, and remain there until morning, when they can be gathered up and destroyed."

The following officers were elected for the next year: President, John N. May, Summit, New Jersey; Vice-President, W. J. Palmer, Buffalo, New York; Treasurer, M. A. Hunt, Terre Haute, Indiana; Secretary, William J. Stewart, Boston, Massachusetts.

"The *American Florist* is a power that deserves our hearty support. It helps us, and the gentlemen connected with it deserve great credit."

The moment of spontaneous and genuine enthusiasm came when John Thorpe, the founder of the Society, was led upon the platform.

Notes.

At the meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, August 11th, Mr. B. G. Smith, exhibited a basket of fruit of the Wilson Jr. Blackberry, a variety raised by the late Judge Parry, of New Jersey, by crossing the Wilson with the Dorchester. The fruit is very large, handsome and regular, and of good flavor, although lacking somewhat the delicacy of the Wilson, which was also shown in great perfection.

The flowering of *Stuartia pseudo-camellia*, a Japanese species, in the Veitch nursery in England, referred to in our London Letter, seems to have been one of the horticultural events of the London season. This plant was distributed in this country many years ago by the Messrs. Parsons, and flowered profusely this season in the garden of Mr. Charles A. Dana, at Glen Cove, N. Y. A drawing of the flowers of this plant has been made, and will appear in a future issue.

Mr. Walter E. Coburn exhibited before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, on the 11th of August, a collection of no less than 200 species and varieties of wild flowers, including thirty-seven species of grasses and sedges in twenty genera. These collections of wild flowers are exceedingly interesting and instructive features of the weekly free exhibition of the Massachusetts Society.

Hybrid Gladioli of the *Gandavensis* race are grown in great quantities, and generally in considerable perfection, in the neighborhood of Boston, where there are some large commercial collections. The weekly exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society (August 18th) was largely devoted to these flowers. The wet season, however, has not been favorable to them, and the exhibition fell short of those of several other years, both in the beauty of the varieties shown and in the excellence of individual specimens. The rare and lovely yellow-fringed Orchis (*Habenaria ciliaris*) was shown in great profusion and in excellent condition in Mr. Hitchin's collection of wild flowers. Another interesting feature of this exhibition was great masses of *Sabbatia chloroides*, one of the handsomest of American plants. It is common at Plymouth, Massachusetts, and at other points along the Atlantic coast, and is seen sometimes in the windows of the enterprising Boston florists. It should find a ready sale, as the beautiful pink flowers are delightfully fragrant, and remain fresh for some time when cut, while unexpanded flower buds will open in water after the plants have been gathered.